Docket No.: 50212-568 **PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Manabu SHIOZAKI, et al. : Confirmation Number:

Serial No.: : Group Art Unit:

Filed: January 22, 2004 : Examiner:

For: DIFFRACTION GRATING ELEMENT

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Mail Stop CPD Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 119, Applicants hereby claim the priority of:

Japanese Patent Application No. P2003-016747, filed on January 24, 2003 U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/442,508, filed on January 27, 2003 Japanese Patent Application No. P2003-105678, filed on April 9, 2003. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/461,420, filed on April 10, 2003 Japanese Patent Application No. P2003-040196, filed on February 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 22, 2004